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In this issue:

- Status of Amateur Radio Rulemaking
- Uniden to Enter Ham Radio Market

HamNet thanks Fred Maia, W5YI, for permission to excerpt this Electronic Edition of his W5YI Report. The full ten-page biweekly newsletter is available by mail for \$21 per year from Fred at Dept. C, PO Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207. Samples available for a 2 stamp large SASE.

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W5YI has developed a complete Novice Package that enables an Amateur Radio operator candidate to learn everything necessary to obtain a ham ticket without formal classroom training. Kit contains 3 manuals, 2 code tapes, telegraph key, tone oscillator, battery...and more! Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back! Same Day Shipping! Price: \$21.95+\$2.40 postage. W5YI-VEC, PO Box 10101-N, Dallas, TX 75207.

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figures. We will go for a five year period where no one will be deleted from the data base. The numbers will soar! The Call Book magazine will get fatter ...much fatter!"

"A lot of amateurs that would ordinarily let their license lapse will continue on for an additional five years. We will see increases in Amateur Radio which will be totally artificial. New application records will be added to the data base ...but none will be deleted for a five year period."

We looked into what this would mean to the amateur census and found that approximately 3,500 amateurs renew their ham tickets monthly. (Calendar year 1987 FCC Amateur Radio licensing records show 40,327 renewals, 26,517 new amateurs and 15,336 "deleted records" [drop-outs]). Thus the total number of amateurs will artificially increase at least by 30% (more than 125,000) over a five year period.

"We will see five years of substantial growth beginning with January 1989 -- and then much slower growth from 1994 on..." when the ten year term licenses that were issued in 1984 must be renewed. "We will be comparing apples and oranges for the next five years," Johnston said.

...And that is assuming no real increase in the US amateur census. Any actual increase will be in addition. If last years dismal growth (3.25%) is compounded for five years, the ham census will stand at 650,000 in 1994 -- nearly a 50% increase over today. Clearly, a million US licensed amateurs within a five year period is within our grasp.

On a No-Code Amateur License... "We have completed the staff work on Ben Johnson's proposal (NY00, Washington, Iowa) to drop the code requirement for the Novice and Technician license, but the decision has not yet been released. We are aware that Canada is considering a no-code license. Ray Kowalski (ex-FCC Division Chief) made a comment that pretty much sums up our feeling on the matter. 'In the United States, no-code is dead ...is laying in the coffin ...the ARRL drove a stake through its heart ...and it is not going to go any place until the ARRL pulls that stake out.'"

I have gone through numerous no-code exercises ...two of which actually got out on the street. Both of them were very expensive ...involving a lot of comments, ...Congressional inquiries ...and an awful lot of staff work. Both of them led to the same conclusion. The hams do not want a no-code license."

"The comments in the last one ran twenty to one against it. While this may have been orchestrated, never-the-less this is what the record shows. There is nothing 'internal' being discussed about a no-code amateur license. Another no-code proposal dealing with handicapped people by a Mr. Hailey was denied and dismissal on January 12th."

I asked Johnston where the reported reorganization of the Part 97 Amateur Rules

stood. Ray Kowalski had told us that the FCC staff work had been completed. "We are still working on it actually. We had completed work on that matter for the division, but now that we have new management...we did some more work on it."

"There is still a question as to whether it will be released at all, but if it is, I would guess it probably would be this Spring. It is one of those things where you take it to the Commission and ask their opinion. You never really know if it will go out or not. Basically the revision tries to get rid of a lot of obsolete rules. There are no 'earth shaking' changes proposed. We are just trying to make Part 97 a little bit easier to use."

Kowalski had mentioned about the possibility of some new 'wrinkles' in amateur emergency communications but Johnston said that "there were none. We wanted to get that in at one time, but it 'didn't fly'," he said. Part 97.1 says that these rules are designed -- among other things -- to provide emergency communications, but you look what is in the rules and there is not much in there."

"We are spectrum managers, not emergency people. The biggest request we get during emergencies is to be able to work phone on the CW only bands. This is interesting because one of the major reasons for keeping the telegraphy requirements is for emergencies. One of the major problems in handling emergencies on the ham bands is too many amateurs want to get involved. It would be better if a lot more of them just 'stood by'."

"This is coming down to a decision point ...it shouldn't be too long. We have completed our work on it and we are getting ready to submit it now. There is a big long approval cycle. When I say we have completed work on the issue, I mean at the branch level. We are nowhere near the end of the line. There are still a lot of approvals and reviews ahead yet."

"The threshold decision is whether we want to do it or not. One of the key things is whether or not it is going to cost us any resources. We have analyzed all of the comments. Thirteen people have proposed to issue amateur callsigns in the private sector. The major proposals were by the League, the Callbook, Buckmaster Publishing, CAVEC and Forest Industries ...among others. Any decision is a couple of months away ...at best."

"We have a lot of petitions that are in various stages of being worked on. Among them..."

"...the VEC petition on code examinations is a little confusing to us. There are two considerations. One, the VEC's say it is difficult to use all of the characters in a five minute telegraphy test ...another is not to require examinations to contain all of the specified characters. Which is most important? Unfortunately, the VEC's didn't make that decision and sent us two requests. We now have to decide which is more important. We are talking about

telgraphy requirements on both the examiner and the examinee."

"...A Mr. Fisher wants to limit the transmission of information bulletins over amateur radio to ten minutes per day per station."

"...A Mr. McKeathian filed a petition seeking more HF phone privileges for Technician operators."

"...A Mr. Ballentine wants to add six more license classes by having CW only, phone only and combined variations of the Novice, Technician and General licenses. Applicants that pass the written portion of amateur examinations would get voice privileges ...with CW privileges and spectrum added when the telegraphy element is passed. Under his proposal there would be eleven amateur license classes instead of five."

"...A Mr. Cisco asks that the FCC automatically upgrade all Technician, General and Advanced amateur operator licenses of Senior Citizens up one class providing they are 65 years or older and have held their amateur operator license twenty years or longer."

"We are now planning our (rulemaking agenda) for next quarter which starts in April."

Year-Ending Amateur Radio Census
by Year and License Class for the Last 10 Years

Dec. 31	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
Extra	43902	41082	38495	36149	34511	31530				
	29768	26613	24232	22498						
Adv.	98610	97771	97959	97765	95771	94588				
	94428	88715	84981	83436						
Gen.	114398	115715	117107	116963	118223	119684				
	125747	123904	122783	118808						
Tech.	93466	85312	83679	80680	77298	75703				
	76976	70061	69022	68738						
Nov.	83013	79882	78616	80599	85823	88799				
	80162	72588	61436	62856						
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TOTAL	433389	419762	415856	412156	411626	410304				
	407081	381881	362454	356336						

o Uniden Corp. To Enter Ham Gear Biz

We had heard a report that the Uniden Corporation of America, a large Indianapolis, Indiana, maker of consumer and business electronic equipment was entering the Amateur Radio equipment business. What alarmed us was the rumor that the major marketing effort of this amateur gear would be to truck stops ...and non-amateurs. This was more or less confirmed when a major amateur radio magazine called Uniden seeking advertising. We decided to investigate.

Uniden manufactures a very broad line of radio and electronic equipment. A billion dollar firm, they make the 'Bearcat' line of scanners, CB radios, marine electronics, land mobile and police radios, cordless telephones, satellite TV receivers ...and all sorts of sophisticated personal communications products. Developing a line of amateur gear certainly would not be difficult for them.

We telephone Jim Haynes, their Chief Engineer, last week to ask him about the HR-2510, a 25 watt 10 meter Ham Radio that we had heard about. Jim said that he was not an amateur, but used to sell amateur gear when he was in the retail business in the Baltimore area. Haynes said "the HR-2510 was designed in the Far East from features we put together here."

As far as the promotional emphasis went, Jim said he did not get involved with that. Jim referred us to a John Heenan in their Marketing Services Department. Jim said he certainly hoped that Uniden's main marketing thrust would not be to truck stops. He also said that he had almost daily contact with the FCC.

Amateur equipment need not be type accepted, but promoting ham gear to truck stops would not help Uniden's image with the Commission. Uniden's entry into the amateur equipment business, according to Haynes, stems from last year's FCC rulemaking allowing entry level amateurs to operate in the voice mode on 10 meters.

We tried to telephone John Heenan several times, but he was never available. We did reach a Uniden customer service department girl at their toll free number (1-800-521-9627) who said she knew nothing about a model HR-2510. She said "...it might be a new CB radio."

We were also able to talk to their lawyer in Washington, DC. I asked Gregg Skall of the Washington law firm of Baker & Hostetler about Uniden's entry into amateur radio and he was also unaware of it. We told him of the report that we had that the amateur transceiver would be primarily promoted to non-amateurs. Although a lawyer, Gregg was even completely unaware of ham radio rules and asked us what FCC part number covered the Amateur Radio Service. I told him to carefully check Part 97.40. He was very friendly, helpful and thanked us for the information.

A couple of days later, after giving up trying to reach John Keenan, we were able to talk to his boss, Paul Davis, the Vice-President of Sales. It is possible...even probable...that his Washington lawyer or Jim Haynes had spoken to him before we got to him, because he immediately said that the HR-2510 would

indeed be promoted to the licensed amateur market. He said that the marketing report we hears was simply not true and that "the magazine" must have spoken to someone that thought the transceiver in question was a CB radio. Our advertising department must have erred," he said. "We will follow the 'letter-of-the-law...'"

Davis said the HR-2510 was a 28.000 to 29.899 MHz transceiver that covered ten meters in 4-bands -- bands "A", "B", "C", and "D" each cover a segment. The radio features USB/LSB/CW/AM/FM ...25 watts sideband, 10 watts AM/FM. The HR-2510 sports a "5-function" 12-digit LED readout that yields standing wave ratio, relative signal strength, RF modulation, calibration readings, and so forth. Retail "will be in the \$399.00 class" but that would be up to the retailer to decide.

I asked Davis who would be selling the transceiver. He said the radio will be sold through Uniden's regular two-step distribution program. They will market it to their network of distributors and will have no control over who they sell it to. Davis said they had distributors in every market and "it is up to them where they sell it." There will be advertising materials ...ad mats and slicks ...available to support them. It will be promoted in ham publications.

The HR-2510 has not yet been produced. The first production run is scheduled for April and "...it will be available to us in May." Davis also told us that Uniden would be relocating their sales, marketing and distribution department to the Dallas area. A new 240,000 square foot distribution facility has been leased near the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport's "Centerport Industrial Park."

In all cases we found the folks at Uniden to be very personable, open and candid. Our investigation indicates that they indeed will be entering the amateur equipment business and they say they intend to follow the rules. It is questionable, however, as to whether their distributors will exercise any control whatsoever over who their dealers sell to. As a whole, their distributors do not primarily sell the amateur radio market. Some amateur equipment -- maybe a substantial amount -- is bound to fall into non-amateur hands.

We also were told that Tandy/Radio Shack would also have 10-meter transceivers available "near year end." Radio Shack's Bob Miller/KG5AK -- a Tandy consumer marketing VP and Advanced Class amateur - said he had no comment on that report and that it was Tandy's policy not to comment on new products until they were available.

[End this issue]